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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 09/494,796 | 01/31/2000 | Christopher H. Genly | INTL-0343-US (P8394) | 3960 |

7590 06/18/2002
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EXAMINER

ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2654

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

HG

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/494,796

Applicant(s)

GENLY, C. H.

Examiner

Angela A. Armstrong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-3 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Haddock et al. (US Patent No. 5,265,014).

Regarding claims 1-3, and 6-10, Haddock et al teaches

Developing representations of the meaning of a spoken query by a user at col. 6, lines 15-38

Developing an attribute pair for the spoken query representation at col. 6, lines 39-41

Utterance representations from current query and history representation from previous query at col. 6, lines 48-58

Developing in-context meaning representation from utterance and history representations at based on a first or second variable type at col. 6, lines 7-64.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 4-5, 11-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Haddock et al.

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Regarding claims 4-5, 11-25, Haddock et al discloses developing representations of the meaning of a spoken query by a user at col. 6, lines 15-38. Haddock et al also disclose developing an attribute pair for the spoken query representation at col. 6, lines 39-41 and utterance representations from current query and history representation from previous query at col. 6, lines 48-58

Haddock et al do not specifically teach determining whether the utterance representation includes both types of variables and if so refraining from using the history representation to develop the in-context meaning representation. At col. 6, lines 39-59, Haddock discloses the functionality of the system for determining the meaning of an ambiguous query, in which the query representation contains the pronoun "he". The query is ambiguous because "it is not yet known who the pronoun "he" refers to because that information lies outside the query" (col. 6, lines 45-47). In this instance the system uses the history information to determine to whom "he" refers. However, if the utterance contains both of the attributes of the utterance, there is no ambiguous query and there is no need to use the history vector.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Haddock, to implement determining whether the utterance representation includes both types of variables and if so refrain from using the history representation to develop the in-context meaning representation, for the purpose of reducing unnecessary processing if the meaning of the query can be ascertained.

4. Claims 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haddock et al in view of Junqua et al (US Patent No. 6,314,398).

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5. Regarding claims 26-30, Haddock et al do not specifically teach implementation of the system in an electronic programming guide application for use with a set-top box.

6. However, refer to Junqua et al who teach a method of using speech understanding for automatic channel selection in interactive television which receives spoken requests from a user, processes the request via natural language processing, and provides synthetic output of information, for use in an electronic programming guide application (Abstract, Figure 1, col. 4, lines 22-41).

7. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Haddock et al to implement the system in an electronic programming guide application, for the purpose of removing ambiguity from the natural language input to the electronic programming guide application.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 6 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's arguments that Haddock does not suggest using state vectors or attribute pairs, applicant is referred to col. 6, lines 6-64, where Haddock discloses an example query of questions of a sentence form of noun phrases and verb phrases, in which a semantic predicate PAINT has two arguments (which reads on "attribute pairs"), an attribute of the painter and the painting.

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13, 18-22 and 23-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

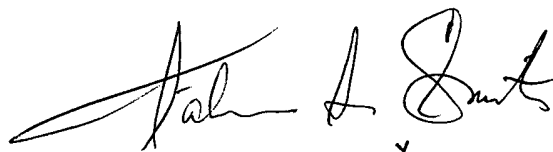
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 703-308-6258.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha Banks-Harold can be reached on (703) 305-4379. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

AAA
June 17, 2002



TĀIVALDIS MĀRS ŠMITS
PRIMARY EXAMINER